IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 10, and 18. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

destination designating means for designating a destination apparatus;

input means for inputting transmission information to be transmitted to the destination apparatus designated by said destination designating means without using the communication network;

facsimile communication means for transmitting the transmission information inputted by said input means to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications;

encryption means for encrypting the transmission information inputted by said input means without using the communication network, wherein the transmission information is encrypted before being transmitted through the communication network to maintain confidentiality of the transmission information;

electronic-mail communication means for transmitting the transmission information inputted by said input means or encrypted by said encryption means to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications;

communication designating means for causing transmission of the transmission

information by selecting either said facsimile communication means or said electronic-mail communication means;

security designating means for designating whether the transmission information is confidential information; and

control means for controlling said facsimile communication means, said encryption means, and said electronic-mail means such that, if the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means, said facsimile communication means transmits the transmission information to the destination apparatus by facsimile transmission through the communication network, when said facsimile communication means has been designated by said communication designating means, and said electronic-mail communication means sends the encrypted transmission information to the destination apparatus by electronic mail through the communication network, when said electronic-mail communication means has been designated by said communication designating means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 1.

Claim 3 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 1.

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Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, if the destination apparatus possesses a private security function, said facsimile communication means transmits the transmission information by confidential communication utilizing the private security function, when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means, said facsimile communication means checks to determine whether the destination apparatus possesses a private security function by inquiring as to whether the destination apparatus possesses the private security function, when a communication path to the destination apparatus is formed.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 5.

Claim 7 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 5.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said security designating means makes a determination that the transmission information is

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confidential information when transmission by confidential communication is designated.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means comprises a document reader and the transmission information is inputted by reading a document using the document reader.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A communication method in a communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said method selectively executing facsimile communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications and electronic-mail communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications, and said method comprising the following steps, in a case where the transmission information is transmitted to a destination apparatus as confidential information:

designating a destination apparatus;

inputting transmission information to be transmitted to the destination apparatus designated in said designating step without using the communication network;

transmitting the transmission information inputted in said inputting step to the destination apparatus as is by facsimile transmission through the communication network, when communication is performed in accordance with facsimile communication; and

encrypting the transmission information inputted in said inputting step without using the communication network and then before sending it to the destination apparatus by

electronic mail through the communication network <u>to maintain confidentiality of the</u>

<u>transmission information</u>, when communication is performed in accordance with electronic-mail

communication.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a

computer program for implementing functions described in claim 10.

Claim 12 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a

computer program for implementing functions described in claim 10.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein,

if the destination apparatus possesses a private security function in a case where facsimile

communication is performed, the transmission information is transmitted to a mailbox that

utilizes the private security function, when the transmission information is transmitted as

confidential information.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a

computer program for implementing functions described in claim 13.

Claim 15 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a

computer program for implementing functions described in claim 13.

Claim 16 (original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the transmission information is document information that has been obtained by reading a document.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication network includes at least one of a telephone network and a LAN.

Claim 18 (previously amended): A communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a destination designating unit adapted to designate a destination apparatus;

an input unit adapted to input transmission information to be transmitted to the destination apparatus designated by said destination designating unit without using the communication network;

a facsimile communication unit adapted to transmit the transmission information inputted by said input unit to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications;

an encryption unit adapted to encrypt the transmission information inputted by said input unit without using the communication network, wherein the transmission information is encrypted before being transmitted through the communication network to maintain confidentiality of the transmission information;

an electronic-mail communication unit adapted to transmit the transmission information inputted by said input unit or encrypted by said encryption unit to a destination

apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications;

a communication designating unit adapted to cause transmission of the transmission information by selecting either said facsimile communication unit or said electronic-mail communication unit;

a security designating unit adapted to designate whether the transmission information is confidential information; and

a control unit adapted to control said facsimile communication unit, said encryption unit, and said electronic-mail communication unit such that, if the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating unit, said facsimile communication unit transmits the transmission information to the destination apparatus by facsimile transmission through the communication network, when said facsimile communication unit has been designated by said communication designating unit, and said electronic-mail communication unit sends the encrypted transmission information to the destination apparatus by electronic mail through the communication network, when said electronic-mail communication unit has been designated by said communication designating unit.